

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /084 W
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R 011550Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8887
INFO USUN NEW YORK 362
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1376

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US UN SF WA
SUBJ: TALKING POINTS ON NAMIBIA FOR OAU MEMBERS

REF: USUN 1964, STATE 143426, STATE 1422378

1. FRENCH AND GERMAN CHARGES AND I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER PATASSE JULY 1 TO BRIEF HIM ON FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE CONCERNING NAMIBIA. ALSO PRESENT WERE FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER KOYAMBA AND SECRETARY OF STATE ZOKOE. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MY FRENCH AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES I SYSTEMATICALLY WENT THROUGH TALKING POINTS CONTAINED PARA 4, STATE 143426. I INDICATED THAT WE WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO GIVE HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF OUR DEMARCHE WAS TO BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON THIS WESTERN INITIATIVE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR LIBREVILLE, WHERE NAMIBIA WAS CERTAIN TO BE DISCUSSED. I STRESSED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP HAD TRIED TO WORK OUT AN ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION AND WAS NOT CHALLENGING THE LEGAL POSITIONS OF ANY OF THE PARTIES.

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2. IN RESPONSE THE PRIME MINISTER THANKED US FOR OUR PRESENTATION. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS BUT SOUGHT TO HAVE PROBLEMS RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. IT WELCOMED WESTERN EFFORTS TO PUT AN END TO RACISM IN NAMIBIA AND TO WORK FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN NAMIBIA AND EXTERNAL

POWERS. HE ASKED US TO INFORM OUR GOVERNMENTS ON BEHALF OF EMPEROR BOKASSA AND HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE CAE WOULD WORK AT LIBREVILLE IN SUPPORT OF THE FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE IN THE INTERESTS OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM.

3. PATASSE EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE AT OUR INABILITY TO GIVE HIM A WRITTEN PIECE OF PAPER. HE SAID THIS SHOWED A CERTAIN MISTRUST ON OUR PART. WE ENDEAVORED TO EXPLAIN THAT WE WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT AN AIDE MEMOIRE AT THE PRESENT TIME BECAUSE MANY POINTS THEREIN WERE STILL AT DISCUSSION STAGE.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS EVERY REASON TO ASSUME THAT CAE DELEGATION WILL TAKE MODERATE LINE ON NAMIBIA AT LIBREVILLE. THE GOCAE HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE WESTERN FIVE AND WITH SOUTH AFRICA; I THINK WE CAN COUNT ON THEIR SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT. HOWEVER, OUR REFUSAL TO HAND OVER AN AIDE MEMOIRE WAS, IN LOCAL TERMS AT LEAST, A TACTICAL ERROR AND FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GOCAE SENSITIVITIES. UNFORTUNATELY IT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE NOT FULLY WILLING TO SHARE OUR POSITION WITH THEM, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE FULLY AT LIBERTY TO TAKE DETAILED NOTES OF OUR PRESENTATION.

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